

2020 8 29 RTF: Dawn of Cinema

moving images started long ago

magic lantern

- one earliest projectors
- turned into live shows
- 1600s
- multiple strips make scenery move
- like slide projector but very complex
- images put on glass and big

Eadweard Muybridge

- photographer and motion picture
- killed wife's lover
- horses running was mystery and paintings look dumb
- set up many cameras and captured stuff quickly
- zoopraxiscope = pictures on spinning piece of glass in a circle
- development of motion pictures
 - 1888 Edison and Muybridge discussed zoopraxiscope
 - 1888-1891 Edison assigned William Dickinson to develop the kinetograph and kinetoscope
 - kinetograph was the motion picture camera
 - kinetoscope was the projector
 - 1891 "Dickinson's greeting" debuts
 - 1894 first kinetoscope parlor opens NYC and Edison patents everything
 - 1892-1893 Edison built the "black Maria" film studio in west orange, NJ
 - moving to theaters allowed the spread of movies, can be shown to more people
 - 1896 vitascope
 - 1895 cinematograph camera and projector
 - smaller and more portable than edison system
 - allowed people to bring the motion picture camera outside
 - the train movie

all early films

- stationary camera
- one movie = one shot
- short; 1 min long
- all about spectacles and reality

- by 1902 people want stories

2020 8 3 RTF: A Tale of Two Companies

moving from a technological lens, where technology dictates culture and art, to a media industry lens

- means seeing media industry as one advancing tech and society
- called media industries studies
 - themes might include institutional structures or the power of media workers
 - doesn't look at the media itself, looks at surrounding things

two companies

- star film co
 - Georges and Gaston miles
 - 1896-1917
- Edison Trust
 - Thomas Edison (and associates)
 - 1908-1915
- both huge influencers in the beginning
- took very different approaches

star film co

- 1861 George Melies born in Paris
- 1880-1888 works family shoe company
- 1888 purchases theatre Robert-Houdin for stage magic
- 1895 saw early Lumiere films
- 1896 buys and modifies an animatograph, begins making short films
- 1896 star film co founded
- 1896-1897 constructs studio
- 1899-1904 prime of his career
- 1902 Edison starts making money off his films, so he sends his brother to the US to form Star Co NY
- 1903-1911 Gaston makes his own films; makes westerns in Texas
 - filmed outside
- 1910 Edison buys Star Films
- 1910s French star films debt
- 1912 Gaston makes short documentaries, but they're destroyed on the way home
- 1915 sold completely to Edison
 - everything destroyed in war
 - builds toy store
- wasn't concerned with tech, mostly the art aspect of filmmaking

- that's why they eventually failed

Edison trust

- 1847 Edison born
 - became deaf over time
- 1876–1886 Menlo park lab developed photograph, incandescent bulb, etc.
- 1888–1891 kinetograph and kinetoscope patented after developed
- 1893 black Maria opened
- 1894–1900 many films made, mostly grounded reality
- 1902 Edison holds all the patents and sues everyone
- 1903 edison begins producing more story based films bc European films
 - great train robbery
- 1907 builds movie factory; pumps movies out very quickly
- 1908–1915 "Edison Trust" and MPPC are the same thing
 - giant corporation that owned all film production
 - controls every aspect of film making
 - had make new film every week
 - films one reel (1000ft) long (12–14min)
- 1915 government broke up the trust

early cinema is:

- experimental
- drawn from theatre
- drawn from photography
- non-narrative
- about delighting the eye

2020 9 4 week 1: let's go into a picture show

key concepts

- social forces of the 1890s
- entertainment before movies
- spectacle v realism
- nickelodeon
- cultural studies
- cultural determinism
- social construction of tech

social forces of the 1890s

- industrial capitalism
- changing tech
- urbanization

what was there for entertainment in the 1890s

- actually going places
- scary bars
- circus
- theatre
- most of these were heavily restricted for women and people of color, etc

nickelodeon

- the first kind of movie theatre that was widespread
- 1905-1915
- cheap
- streamlined
- electricity
- lens used: cultural studies

cultural determinism

- cultural determines how tech advances and progresses

2020 9 9 RTF

key concepts

- production
- exhibition
- distribution
- film exchange
- Carl Laemmle
- characteristics of transitional cinema

production

- making of films

exhibition

- showing films

distribution

- moving films to exhibitionists

overtime, film exchanges became a thing

- Edison didn't own
- some were budget with old cheaper films or prints or lower quality
- had issues with burning down

early cinema 1890s-1907	transitional cinema 1907-1917
experimentation	standardization
many companies	Edison trust
many places	nickelodeon
no set length	one reel
camera stationary	different shot types
US = east coast	US = hollywood

2020 9 19 RTF: birth of a nation

discourse

- institutionalized way of talking about how talk about things
- film art discourse
- history discourse
- racism discourse

birth of a nation racist

within our gates isn't racist

2020 9 19

Laemmle sued Edison trust

- formed studio system on west coast
 - movie factories
 - classical Hollywood style
 - 50-52 movies/year
 - movie palaces
 - pushed women out as filmmaking became more traditional job

- remasculinization

2020 9 19 RTF: Stars

what are stars?

- images not people
- interest w/ not as people
- ideological images

star system

- 1910s-1930s
- studios made personas for stars without stars having say in what they do

hierarchy

- hopeful unpaid no ones
- poorly paid extras
- poorly paid poorly treated actors
- well paid abused full stars

women actors of color fought for their rights

2020 9 25 RTF: Sound

silent film wasn't truly silent

- people were playing even in cheap theatres
- originally was more of a improvised thing
- moved to cue sheets
- movie palaces had full orchestras
 - live acts followed by short films
 - serials
 - newsreels
 - theatres were foremost employers of musicians
- chronophone
 - an early form of sound
- people used to talk in movies, but not too too loud

widespread synchronous sound

- Vitaphone
 - didn't think would incorporate sound into full movie
 - was planned on "canned vaudeville"
 - wasn't great and amplification was bad
- warner bros went all in sound
 - jazz singer was first widely done talkie
 - most acting done silently with cards
 - lots black face
- questions about talkies being able to be in foreign markets and its more expensive to both make and show

sound affected stuff

1. cinematography
 1. actors play to mic
 2. noisy equipment
 1. even had to switch lights
2. theatres
 1. smaller theatres couldn't just change
 2. wiring for sound cheaper for big ones bc musicians
 3. people need quiet
 4. film speed
3. stars
 1. some fade
 2. some new
 3. accents liability
 4. "American" is a sound
 5. 1929 big sound everywhere stuff
 6. classism and nativism bad
 7. talkies helped make American accent
4. genre
 1. capitalizes on sound
 1. gangster films
 2. musicals
 3. screwball comedy

sound systems

- sound on film won out over sound on disk
- abandoned disk by 1930

2020 9 25 RTF: Pre-Code Hollywood

timeline

- 1929: great depression starts
- 1930: production code was made
- 1934: production code enforced

Houston 1927

- population doubled between 1900-1910
- 1930: biggest Texas city
- urbanization happening all over country

1929 10 24

- everything ruined
- stock market crash
- newsreels were things and scale of crash was shown
- photography was a part of new deal stuff
 - gorgeous picture
- federal project no 1
- homelessness and Hooverilles very bad
- dust bow
 - over farming
- very very bad for People of Color
 - Jim crow still thing

timeline

- 1929-1930 doing ok
- 1931 on everything died
- many different strategies to make money

strategies of movie makers

- needless changing
- much sexy stuff and feet
- also gangsters

2020 9 28 RTF: production code

media effects: social or psychological affects of media on individuals and/or groups

- no clear cut effect on people, still don't know effects fully
- talking about how people worry about it

moral panic

- something defined as threat
- shown as simple and recognizable
- image causes concern
- authorities issue response
- moral panic over, but caused social change

Arbuckle

- labor day party went bad
- girl died few days after thing
- Arbuckle abandoned
- stars in shorts years later
- dies in sleep
- became symbol of everything bad

what happen after

- studies of media on kids
- religious groups organise against stuff
- Hollywood offer own solutions

Payne fund studies

- using new social science techniques
- corrupt

national legions of decency 1933-1965

- catholic organization
- 20 mil Catholics in us
- organize via parishes
- parishioners swear boycott bad films and places with bad films
- legion of decency ratings
 - a
 - b
 - c
 - and then also by age
 - a is best

Kennesaw mountain Landis helped baseball after scandal

will h hays

- brought in things to fix movies
- post master general
 - at time post offices did things to do morality stuff
- to stop legal censorship
- everyone thought he was doing things to help the things
- failed
- brought in two other people
- films should avoid sin bc it makes us do sin
- production code 1930
 - no sex stuff
 - no long kissing
 - bad stuff
- eventually start enforcing it
- eventually films had to be put through board stuff
- some didnt like code

wasnt legally regulated, but the production code did limit everything

outcomes of code

- creativity was necessary
- lots of cheesy films
- affects our film as a whole
- inflexible set of rules reflects certain groups 1930s

2020 10 4 RTFN: Redo

intro to radio history

radio isn't just anything we listen to through headphones, however it did influence a lot of that

hertz found electromagnetic waves exist; thought was useless discovery

radio spectrum: part of the electromagnetic spectrum the federal government regulates thats used for all kinds of telecommunications

Marconi invented and honed the vertical antennae; sending messages from england to canada by 1901

- turned radio into business of selling transmitted newspapers to people on boats
- his radio communication system became famous after saving lives at the titanic

Lee DeForest

- invented the three element vacuum tube
 - first amplification device
- was racist and thought black music ruining radio

radio is both a way to communicate and transmit

- at first, mostly amateurs with self-built radios for both transmission and receiving
- over time that became more restricted
- in early 1920s
 - receivers exploded in popularity
- FCC became thing around that time
- broadcasting became dominant way of radioing

film industry	radio industry
how do uses evolve	how do uses evolve
from visual spectacle to narrative stories; both high art and popular entertainment	from walkie talkie to gov control during ww1 to a popular entertainment industry
beginnings	beginnings
not enough films, random releases and formats, scramble to set up theatres	thousands random broadcasts compete on airwaves
control	control
from Edison monopoly to oligopoly of big studios in California	only 2-3 major national networks that form, eventually ABC, NBC. and CBS
regulation	regulation
gov never regulate Hollywood, self regulation	bans on civilian radio during ww1; regulates airwaves via licensing frequencies after
independent makers	independent makers

film industry	radio industry
forces out by studios; make indie films on 16mm	forced to marginal bandwidths by gov
content	content
produce steady stream films and other stuff; no direct ads or reruns; distributed to theatres	produce very little content; sell blocks to sponsors who provide programs; lots ads; live; networks distribute programming to local stations
audience	audience
out in public at theatres; fears of ruining children	inside home listening; worried for kids

radio different four key ways

1. scarcity
2. liveness
3. seriality
4. commerciality

2020 10 07 RTFN

lecture 15: political media (1920s-1940s)

politics and war on the radio from the twenties to forties

- politics found home on radio quickly
- 1920 first election broadcast
- 1923 first radio address from white house
- Coolidge was first president broadcasted
- liveness and intimacy bring people together around radio

Fr Charles Coughlin

- started as populist leftist
- catholic
- became Nazi

FDR Fireside Chat

- broke down everything
- used you and we to build relationship to do war stuff

Murrow boys and broadcast journalism in WWII

- interventionism v isolationism

propaganda: media made to persuade people

casa blanca: rick becomes metaphor for isolationists

- eventually sacrifices for the greater good

Disney pushed relations with South America

- fetishized Latina women